

Appln. No. 10/764,366  
Amendment dated March 5, 2007  
Reply to Office Action mailed November 3, 2006

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### REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claim 16 remains in this application. Claims 1 through 15 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujii in view of Kolvities and further in view of Krieger.

It is conceded in the rejection of the Office Action that the Fuji patent does not disclose "at least one portable power unit being removably mountable on said recharging assembly", and it is then alleged that:

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of this invention to have modified the expandable AC power supply device to remove its charger (10) from the power supply device and provide the piggyback interface with the tool box power center for the recharging assembly. The motivation would have been to reduce the complexity and cost of the portable AC power supply device and to provide a smaller more portable power supply having the detachable features of the piggyback device for temporary use from the "tool box" power center.

However, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to make such a modification of the Fujii device that would impair the versatility and "modularity" of the of the Fujii device. More particularly, the Fujii patent sets forth in the summary of the invention portion of the patent the desire to match the load actually being connected to the Fujii device. See, for example, Fujii at col. 2, lines 3 through 48 (emphasis added)

In order to meet the objectives outlined above, among others, the expandable AC power supply device of this invention may comprise

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one or more AC power supply modules, each module comprising 1) one or more batteries, 2) a battery charger to charge the battery; 3) an AC power generator unit which inverts a electrical charge stored in the battery and generates an output AC power to the specified load; 4) a control unit capable of controlling an operation of the expandable AC power supply device; 5) an AC power supply plug to receive external AC power from external AC power source; 6) an AC power supply socket for the external AC power to connect to the AC power supply plug of an adjacent AC power supply module which may be connected side by side; 7) an AC power supply socket to output the AC power from the AC power generator unit; and 8) an AC connecting terminal to connect with the AC connecting terminal of the adjacent AC power supply module which may be connected side by side to transfer the specified AC power.

By connecting the AC power supply socket on one of the aforesaid power supply modules (or devices) to the AC power supply plug on another power supply device of the same configuration, and connecting the downstream signal connecting terminal on the aforesaid power supply device to the upstream signal connecting terminal on another power supply device of the same configuration, one can connect a number of the aforesaid power supply devices in parallel. In this way it is possible to supply power to match a specified load requirement by using one or more power supply devices.

A single AC power supply device can function independently as a complete power supply device, or, if two or more devices are connected in parallel, these connected devices can be used to form a complete power supply. In this case, the capacity of the AC power supply device will be the sum of the capacities of all the devices. A single device used independently can supply AC power to a small load; combining a number of devices provides a high capacity to supply AC power to a load. When the required load capacity increases because an additional device has been added or the device has been upgraded, a number of devices can be added which corresponds to the additional load. In this way it is simple to insure an adequate AC power supply capacity without using an excessively large and wasteful power supply.

It is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the desired flexibility to match the load actually being encountered is lost if one were to attempt to remove the battery charger from the individual modules as suggested in the rejection. It is also submitted that, with this reduced ability to match the loads actually being imposed upon the Fujii device, the "complexity" and "cost" of the Fujii device would not

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necessarily be diminished, as one would presumably then have to add a housing with the common charger that could be connected to each of the modules of Fujii.

Further, it is stated in the rejection that:

KRIEGER discloses recharging assembly comprises a case having a main portion and a lid portion, said main portion defining a cavity therein (figure 2).

However, the Krieger patent makes clear in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" that Figure 2 shows "a block diagram illustrating the components of the portable power center", so it is not clear how one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that Figure 2 illustrates "a cavity", as Figure 2 of Krieger simply shows element of the device in block form without any physical characteristics.

It is therefore submitted that the cited patents, and especially the allegedly obvious combination of Fuji, Kolvities and Krieger set forth in the rejection of the Office Action, would not lead one skilled in the art to the applicant's invention as required by claim 16.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claim 16 is therefore respectfully requested.

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**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODS, FULLER, SHULTZ & SMITH P.C.



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Jeffrey A. Proehl (Reg. No. 35,987)  
Customer No. **40,158**  
P.O. Box 5027  
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5027  
(605)336-3890 FAX (605)339-3357